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PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO. 3428

IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR(S): Ron Smith

SERIAL NO.: 10/810,769

GROUP ART UNIT: 3632

FILED: March 25, 2004

EXAMINER: A. Sterling

SUBJECT: Foldable Book Holder

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT FILED WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

In response to the Examiner's Action mailed May 18, 2005, please accept the enclosed Request for Continued Examination and enter the following amendments and remarks of record.

AMENDMENTS

In the Description:

Please make the amendments shown below:

On page 2, third paragraph, please delete the date mistakenly inserted in lines 15 and 16:

The present invention is lightweight, compact, aesthetically pleasing in its appearance, and more readily stored in a ring binder or folder than practically all the devices of the prior art. The preferred embodiments of the present invention may be set-up for use and folded for storage with a minimum of motions. The folded book stand may remain in a solid panel configuration of less than 3/16" thick to function favorably as a clipboard, ~~March 25, 2004~~sketchpad, or straight edge. In addition, the required components are few and simple to manufacture, easily fabricated from inexpensive materials, and can effectively support the weight of heavy books at a comfortable reading level. Some devices of the prior art that fold closed are not well-suited for use as a clipboard or sketchpad, and require excessive components, such as US Pat. No 5,941,496.

On page 7, third full paragraph, please insert the sentence including " pivot axis" as shown:

Figures 11 and 12 are rear views of book stand **100**, illustrating how support members **4** preferably diverge from each other on the back surface **2** of the book stand **100** in operational configuration. Preferably, the support members **4** diverge from each other by means of angle **E** being 100-130° and preferably about 110°. The pair of support members **4** are adjoined to the rear surface of the rectangular panel **1** via hinges **9** preferably angled about 5-25° from the edge of the panel **1** (angle **D** in Figures 7 and 12). As shown in Figure 7 to best advantage, the longitudinal axis of each hinge **9**, which is the pivot axis of the respective support member, is at an angle to the respective outer side edge of the panel **1**. Preferably, the top ends of the support members **4** are closer to the respective panel **1** edges than the bottom ends of the support members **4**. The hinges **9** are preferably located no more than 2" away from the said panel edge **1** for an 11" long panel **1**. Also, as shown in Figures 11 and 12, the support members **4** are generally vertical, so that the weight of the book **15** is carried with little or no horizontal force component applied to the support members **4** to pivot the support members **4** out from under the book stand **100**. Positioning both the hinges **9** and the support members **4** away from the book stand **100** midline and close to the panel **1** side edges, distributes the force of a book on the book stand **100** over a greater distance creating a very broad and stable support base.